

## Black Pete Racism in Holland and Belgium.

### Door Joyce Naar (2013)

The article in Dutch from a photographer who writes that he was frightened when seeing the extreme reactions of Dutch people yesterday in The Hague during a pro Black Pete demonstration. They attacked a woman because they thought that she was anti Black Pete. They told her that she had to go back to her country!! The woman was demonstrating against the UN, because she said that the UN should support Papoea New Guinea in stead of anti-Black Pete movements. The police took her along for her own safety and the protestors were so happy, because they thought that the police had arrested her!!

So the woman was probably descending from Indonesia and she wanted to support the Dutch Pro Black Pete movement and they did not listen to her, only saw her colour and attacked her!! So when coloured people think that this Black Pete is only about black men they are wrong. Everyone who's forefathers are from Africa, Caribbean, Indonesia, Latin America, etc., even if they have a light skin, is considered to be black in Europe!!

### Hate speech and attacks on the personal integrity of UN experts, harassment and intimidation of UN experts in their defence of human rights in the Dutch Black Pete case.

Recently, [four UN experts sent a letter to the Dutch Government](#) relaying information they had received predominantly by people in the Netherlands. According to the information, the character and image of Black Pete perpetuate a stereotyped image of African people and people of African descent as second-class citizens, stirring racial differences as well as racism. The experts also asked whether, as had been reported to them, the Dutch authorities had selected the annual Saint Nicolas Event to be submitted for inclusion in the [UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list](#).

[In its response, the Dutch Government provided clarification](#) on these and several other issues.

While there may be vigorous debate on issues raised by independent experts, these individuals should not be subject to hate speech or attacks on their personal integrity or any form of harassment or intimidation in their defence of human rights, as has happened in this case.

<http://blogs.un.org/#sthash.Pz58oVcv.wXp4Hlcf.dpbs>

See also the UN Blog: <http://blogs.un.org/#sthash.Pz58oVcv.wXp4Hlcf.dpbs>

[What is the role of human rights independent experts?](#)

Posted on [October 24, 2013](#) by [Social Media Team](#)

We've been receiving lots of comments and questions on social media about the [human rights special procedures experts](#) and issues raised recently concerning the Dutch

celebration of Black Pete, also known as “Swarte Piet,” which is part of the annual Saint Nicholas Event.

The special procedures experts of the [Human Rights Council](#) are independent human rights experts who report and advise on human rights in all parts of the world from a thematic or country-specific perspective.

The experts work on a voluntary basis. They are not UN staff and don't get paid a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organization and serves in their individual capacity. Their work includes:

- making [country visits](#)
- acting on individual cases as well as broader concerns by sending [communications](#) to bring alleged violations or abuses to the attention of States and others
- conducting studies
- raising public awareness.

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Related information:

- [Find out more about the human rights special procedures](#)
- [Get ideas on what you can do fight racism](#)

United Nation human rights body mulls Dutch 'Black Pete' racism claim

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/united-nation-body-mulls-dutch-black-pete-racism-claim/1184674/>

**PTI** : Hague, Sat Oct 19 2013, 20:57 hrs The UN human rights body is mulling whether a Dutch caricature called "Black Pete" who accompanies Saint Nicholas during a traditional children's festival is racist, a media report said on Saturday.

A committee of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is assessing responses to a letter sent to the Dutch government early this year, the NRC Handelsblad reported.

Black Pete, or "Zwarte Piet" in Dutch, traditionally accompanies Saint Nicholas at a festival on the third Saturday of November, when he officially "arrives" in The Netherlands in a gift-filled boat from Spain.

The character is typically decked out in a gaudy medieval costume and afro wig, with his face painted black, prompting criticism in recent years of racial stereotyping.

Opponents say the character recalls when Dutch colonists exploited slaves, notably in the Caribbean colonies of Suriname and Curacao.

"According to information we have received... the character and image of Black Pete perpetuate a stereotyped image of African people and people of African descent as second-class citizens," said the letter, dated January this year and published today on the NRC's website.

The letter by four officials of the Geneva-based UN rights body asked for a clarification from Dutch authorities.

"Please indicate to which extent your government has involved Dutch society, including African people... in the discussions regarding the choice of 'Santa Claus and Black Pete' as expression of cultural significance in the country," it said.

Emotions are flaring over the racially sensitive issue.

Amsterdam held a public hearing on Thursday during which 21 complaints about Black Pete were filed asking the Dutch capital to revoke the permit for this year's festival.

Mayor Eberhard van der Laan is to rule on the permit in early November, his spokeswoman Tahira Limon said.

But Black Pete's supporters called for the children's Saint Nicholas festival to go ahead, arguing that it has been part of a Dutch tradition dating as far back as the 16th.

## **Holland and Its Mysterious Racist Black Pete Tradition**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/ilco-van-der-linde/holland-and-its-mysteriou\\_b\\_4118053.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/ilco-van-der-linde/holland-and-its-mysteriou_b_4118053.html)

**In Holland we have Sinterklaas. Next month he will arrive in a boat from Spain, bringing thousands of presents for all the Dutch children, many of them waiting for him in the harbor, singing songs and waving flags. Once ashore Sinterklaas, dressed like an old bishop with a long beard, will continue his journey through the small country on a white horse and around the horse there are always - as [David Sedaris](#) tells us on a hilarious way - six to eight black men. These black men are the servants of Sinterklaas and they all have the same name: Black Pete. They are dressed as Renaissance minstrels with black faces, painted red lips and Afro wigs. They jump around, talk foolishly, make mistakes - like constantly forgetting things - and behave like naughty little boys. For weeks Black Pete's are everywhere, in shops, houses, schools and TV commercials. They distribute candies and presents till the Birthday of Sinterklaas on the 5th of December.**

**And the next day, they are all gone. But I do remember how I once pointed out to a colored Dutchman with Surinam origin and shouted to my mother: "Look, look, there's still one left!". The man and my mother both looked angry. This is more or less how I learned that I wasn't allowed to say this. I did look over my shoulder though, to be sure if he really wasn't secretly carrying some presents behind his back. Which he wasn't.**

**More than ever newspapers, talk shows and blogs in The Netherlands debate about the Black Pete tradition right now. The vast majority says the tradition is over 150 years old and kids love it, so why would you fuzz about it? And anyone who dares to share doubts about this tradition or suggests that it looks like a racist happening gets confronted with fierce verbal attacks. Facebook pages like 'Black Pete must stay forever' receive tens of thousands of likes. And amongst the comments you find remarks as 'If the blacks don't like this they should go back to their country', ignoring the fact that a fifth of the country is colored and most are born and raised in the same Holland.**

**Thousands of colored people in Holland feel pain and insult by this tradition. The white boss and his black servants sometimes remind them of a much more painful part of the world's history. And when thousands feel humiliated this should be enough reason to change the tradition, don't you think so? Or do we need the United Nations to interfere again? Till 2002 Holland and several other western countries knew stubborn fans of the ages old tradition of dwarf tossing. No kidding! Only after the [UN Human Rights Committee](#) decided in September 2002 that this was a humiliating tradition people stopped tossing dwarfs around. Yes, in case the Dutch can't find the guts, the creativity and honest self-reflection to keep the Sinterklaas tradition alive without the humiliating Black Pete's then I think we must ask the UN to interfere again.**

## **[UN body mulls Dutch 'Black Pete' racism claim](#)**

<http://www.france24.com/en/20131019-un-body-mulls-dutch-black-pete-racism-claim>

**AFP - The UN human rights body is mulling whether a Dutch caricature called "Black Pete" who accompanies Saint Nicholas during a traditional children's festival is racist, a media report said Saturday.**

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**But Black Pete's supporters called for the children's Saint Nicholas festival to go ahead, arguing that it has been part of a Dutch tradition dating as far back as the 16th century, with the Black Petes first appearing around the 1850s.**

**In a survey of 10,000 people published by the popular broadsheet De Telegraaf on Saturday, some 96 percent asked for a stop to the debate over Black Pete.**

Some 66 percent said they would prefer that the entire Saint Nicholas festival be dropped rather than stripping it of the Black Pete character.

One respondent told De Telegraaf: "The 21 complaints are spoiling it for the rest of The Netherlands."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/netherlands/10393916/Dutch-Black-Pete-Christmas-custom-may-be-racist-warns-UN.html>

## **Dutch 'Black Pete' 5 december custom may be racist, warns UN**

United Nations expresses concern that Dutch Christmas tradition of Father Christmas is racist and "infringes the human rights" of black people

By [Bruno Waterfield](#)

2:05PM BST 21 Oct 2013

A row over the traditional Dutch 5 december custom of "Black Pete" has reached the UN as the international organisation's human rights body opens an investigation into whether the character is a "racist stereotype".

Every November 17, Sinterklaas, the Dutch Father Christmas, who is white, brings presents for children helped by mischievous servants dressed as pageboys, wearing black make-up, curly wigs and with large, painted on red lips.

It has emerged that the UN's high commission for human rights has written to the Dutch government expressing concerns over the tradition and accusing the authorities of failing to react to complaints of racial discrimination.

"Some practices, which are part of cultural heritage, may infringe upon human rights," said the letter.

"Negative media and other cultural, social or traditional portrayals of persons belonging to minorities may constitute racism and may be degrading to members of those communities, in the present case persons belonging to black populations and people of African descent, and can perpetuate negative stereotypes within society."

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [joycenaar@skynet.be](mailto:joycenaar@skynet.be)

**To:** [Norman Girvan](#)

**Cc:** [margaret gill](#) ; [mervyn claxton](#) ; [Alexander Gittens](#) ; [editor](#) ; [Barryl A. Biekman](#)

**Sent:** Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:10 PM

**Subject:** Re: Black Pete racism in Holland and Belgium. The UN working group does not understand why it is that people in the Netherlands cannot see that this is a throwback to slavery, and that in the 21st century this practice should stop

**Norman, I will write the article after the Panafrican Roots synergy meeting that will take place tomorrow afternoon in Amsterdam, organised by Mrs. Barryl Biekman (in copy) and her organization who have been fighting against this Dutch Black Pete Racism for ages in and outside Holland and in the UN. Barryl is also descending from Suriname, well known in the Caribbean by all those who are in the reparations movement since 2001!!**

**I cannot attend the meeting tomorrow in Amsterdam but Barryl will send me all the information about the meeting which will be about Black Pete and Human Rights, where will be discussed how to set up a focal point for complaints for all those in Holland and Belgium who are harmed by this Black Pete racism : children at school who are called Black Pete, people at work who are called Black Pete by their boss and do not dare to say anything, black people in the streets who are asked by Dutch people they do not know if they want to serve as Black Pete!! Very humiliating, and this is happening for centuries!! But it is getting worse!! More than one million Dutch people on Facebook wrote 'not very nice things' in Dutch about the people who want to get rid of black Pete. And that is also the case in Belgium!! I wrote a letter to Prime Minister of Belgium to ask his attention. I received a letter that his office will investigate this.**

**Note:** Last week the Council of Europe's Anti-Racism Commission published a new report on the Netherlands, saying that the Netherlands should do more to combat racial discrimination. [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/142-15\\_10\\_2013\\_Netherlands\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/142-15_10_2013_Netherlands_en.asp)  
[http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/netherlands-should-do-more-to-combat-racism-report\\_883490.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/netherlands-should-do-more-to-combat-racism-report_883490.html)

Regards,  
Joyce

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Norman Girvan](#)

**To:** [Joyce NAAR](#)

**Cc:** [margaret gill](#) ; [mervyn claxton](#) ; [Alexander Gittens](#) ; [editor](#)

**Sent:** Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:24 PM

**Subject:** Re: Black Pete racism in Holland and Belgium. The UN working group does not understand why it is that people in the Netherlands cannot see that this is a throwback to slavery, and that in the 21st century this practice should stop

Joyce, can you turn your message into an article and send to [editor@1804caribvoices.org](mailto:editor@1804caribvoices.org)

Thanks

Norman

latest <http://www.normangirvan.info/greater-caribbean/>

On 24 October 2013 11:09, <[joycenaar@skynet.be](mailto:joycenaar@skynet.be)> wrote:

Dear All,

We would like to ask your attention for the Black Pete racism in Holland and Belgium, where since centuries black people and anyone who is non white, are ridiculised. Discussion about Zwarte Piet/Black Pete has escalated since 2011, when a prominent opponent was thrown to the ground, handcuffed by police and dragged away for wearing a T-shirt reading "Black Pete is Racism".

We support the UN : "The (UN) working group does not understand why it is that people in the Netherlands cannot see that this is a throwback to slavery, and that in the 21st century this practice should stop," Verene Shepherd ,the chairwoman of the U.N. Human Rights Commission panel, told television program EenVandaag. The United Nation human rights body mulls Dutch 'Black Pete' racism claim: <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/united-nation-body-mulls-dutch-black-pete-racism-claim/1184674/>

Dutch and Belgian white people are angry and posting messages on facebook, more than a million, to keep their Black Pete tradition!!

The messages/comments/discussions on Facebook are in Dutch. The media report in English.

It is really serious, urgent and a dangerous situation for black people in Holland and Belgium!!

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said it isn't his place to intervene in a folk tradition. "Black Pete: The name says it already. He's black," he said. "I can't change much about it"!!!

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Best regards,  
Joyce

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/dutch-reject-criticism-black-pete-tradition-20654437>

AMSTERDAM October 23, 2013 (AP)

By TOBY STERLING Associated Press

**AP**

A Facebook page seeking to preserve the "Black Pete" clowns in blackface who accompany St. Nicholas to the Netherlands during the holidays has become the fastest-growing Dutch-language page ever, receiving 1 million "likes" in a single day.

The mushrooming popularity of the "Pete-ition" page reflects the depth of emotional attachment most Dutch people — 90 percent of whom have European ancestry — feel to a figure that helped launch the tradition of Santa Claus.

It also reflects their anger at critics who call it racist. Those critics include foreigners who they feel don't understand the tradition. They also include many of the country's most prominent blacks.

"Don't let the Netherlands' most beautiful tradition disappear," the page says.

On Tuesday, the chairwoman of a U.N. Human Rights Commission panel looking into the festival condemned it flatly.

"The working group does not understand why it is that people in the Netherlands cannot see that this is a throwback to slavery, and that in the 21st century this practice should stop," Verene Shepherd told television program EenVandaag.

In stories told to children, St. Nicholas — Sinterklaas in Dutch — arrives by steamboat from Spain in mid-November accompanied by a horde of helpers: "Zwarte Pieten," or Black Petes, who have black faces, red lips and curly hair.

A public broadcaster produces a daily fictional news program about the doings of Sinterklaas and the Petes that is shown in public elementary schools for several weeks. On the evening of Dec. 5, families read poems and exchange presents to cap the Dutch-Belgian festival that is one of the main sources of the Santa Claus traditions.

Opponents of the tradition say Pete is an offensive caricature of black people. Supporters say Pete is a positive figure whose appearance is harmless.

The traditional song refers to Pete as a "servant" to the elderly saint, but in recent years those references have largely been replaced with the idea that he is black from chimney soot as he scrambles down to deliver toys and sweets for children who leave their shoes out overnight.

Discussion about Zwarte Piet has escalated since 2011, when a prominent opponent was thrown to the ground, handcuffed by police and dragged away for wearing a T-shirt reading "Black Pete is Racism" where children might see.

Opposition has been centered in Amsterdam, home to the Netherlands' largest black community. Mayor Eberhard van der Laan this month said he would support changing Pete's appearance — but only gradually, as it has changed over time in the past.

"If it appears that Amsterdammers feel pain as a result of this tradition, that's a good reason for new development," he said.

Organizers of the festival and the broadcaster also said they would be open to changes if people want them.

The latest public figure to speak out against the tradition was none other than the (white) man who has played the part of "Head Pete" on the Sinterklaas news program for more than a decade. His commentary appeared in a top Dutch newspaper Tuesday, entitled "Make me less black and less a servant."

Others to question the tradition include Victoria's Secret model Doutzen Kroes and many of the country's prominent thinkers and black celebrities.

But their campaign has failed to draw widespread support and the overwhelming majority of Dutch people don't want change.

"Message for the U.N.: Isn't there a war somewhere, starvation or genocide going on that you could better be concerned about?" Dutchman Peter Udo commented on the Facebook page, drawing more than 2,000 likes.

Asked about the issue at his weekly press conference, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said it isn't his place to intervene in a folk tradition.

"Black Pete: The name says it already. He's black," he said. "I can't change much about it."

<http://www.rtlnieuws.nl/nieuws/buitenland/ook-belgie-laait-discussie-over-zwarte-piet-op>

**Ook in België laait discussie over Zwarte Piet op**

Ook in Vlaanderen moet er een debat komen over Zwarte Piet. Dat stelt het Belgisch Centrum voor Gelijkheid van Kansen en voor Racismebestrijding (CGKR).

Volgens het CGKR is er rond de begeleiders van Sinterklaas geen sprake van opzettelijk of strafbaar racisme. Maar het is wel nodig een maatschappelijk debat te voeren over oude volksgebruiken.

Het CGKR wijst in dat verband op de zogenoemde Kattenstoet in Ieper, waarbij vroeger levende katten van een toren werden gegooid. Hoewel dat een zeer oude traditie was, worden er tegenwoordig alleen nog pluchen exemplaren gebruikt.

Net als Nederland viert Vlaanderen Sinterklaas, maar het is er vooral een kinderfeest. Onder meer in Sint-Niklaas, 'de stad van de Sint', wordt een reeks evenementen rond de goedheiligman georganiseerd.  
RTL Nieuws/ANP

## Fotograaf schrikt van grimmig Zwarte Piet-protest

<http://www.volkskrant.nl/vk/nl/2686/Binnenland/article/detail/3534053/2013/10/27/Fotograaf-schrikt-van-grimmig-Zwarte-Piet-protest.dhtml>

27/10/13, 18:13



© anp.

video Dat een vreedzaam protest tegen het verdwijnen van een populair kinderfeest zich razendsnel kan keren tegen een nietsvermoedende demonstrant, en een arrestatie niet altijd is wat het lijkt, ondervond fotograaf Gerrit de Heus. Hij was zaterdag op het Malieveld aanwezig bij de Zwarte Piet-demonstratie en [schreef er een blog](#) over.



© Videostill NOS.

**Betogers richten hun woede zaterdag op een nietsvermoedende vrouw die op enige afstand van het Zwarte Pieten-protest haar eigen demonstratie tegen de Verenigde Naties voerde. Een organisatie die in haar ogen niets doet tegen Indonesië dat West-Papoea annexeerde en daar 400.000 Papoea's vermoordde.**

**Als een klein groepje Zwarte Piet-sympathisanten de vrouw met de vlag ziet, slaat de stemming om. De groep loopt dreigend op haar af en sluit haar in. Een blonde vrouw met zwart geschminkt gezicht begint meteen te schreeuwen: 'Dus jij bent tegen Zwarte Piet? Rot dan lekker op naar je eigen land!'**

**De vrouw stamelt dat ze helemaal niet tegen Zwarte Piet is, maar tegen de VN. Ze vindt het belangrijker dat de VN tijd en geld steekt in onderzoek in West-Papoea en dat onderzoek naar Zwarte Piet onzin en geldverspilling is. Maar niemand die het hoort of het wil horen. 'Ze is tegen Zwarte Piet!', zo schrijft De Heus in zijn verslag.**

### **Belaagd**

**De fotograaf ziet dat de onvrede over de Zwarte Pieten-discussie zich plots op de vrouw richt. Een man probeert haar vlag af te pakken, omstanders lachen haar uit. De vrouw probeert de meute te ontvluchten, maar wordt belaagd door een oudere man. Op het moment dat ze wordt ingesloten, komt er een agent aan. Hij vraagt de vrouw mee te komen. 'Voor uw veiligheid, mevrouw.'**

**Als de vrouw meeloopt naar het politiebusje, klink gejuich van een klein groepje omstanders. 'Ze is gearresteerd', zegt een vrouw in trainingspak. 'Terecht', merkt haar man op.**

### **URGENT APPEAL**

To: Mrs. Dr. Gene Connors  
The Head of Special Procedures Division  
Dc/o OHCHR-UNOG  
8-14 Avenue de la Paix  
1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

### **Regarding: "Santa Claus & Black Pete"**

CC: High Commissioner on Human Rights: Madam Pilay; Mr. A. Moussa, UNESCO Paris; Professor Dr. Verene Shepherd; UN Working group of Experts of People of African Descent, CERD: Mr. Pastor Murillio; UNESCO: Madam Duvelle.

Date: October 28<sup>th</sup> 2013

Dear Madam Connors,

On behalf of the **wider** African and African Diaspora Community in the Netherlands, these includes: Networks and Organizations and with support of Tiye International: The National Federation (with special consultative status to the ECOSOC of the UN) of 21 Black, Migrant & Refugee Women's Organisations and Youth organisations in The Netherlands, We hereby ask your urgent attention (for the third time) for the following.

What else can we do more Madam Connors?

to stop the symbolic violence by millions of White Dutch People against Black African People in the Netherlands and all other people of Good Will (by internet; Facebook this includes hate mails, dead wishes) because of the fact that we CRY for a listening ear by the United Nations and since it has become to the attention of White Dutch People that we have asked for an investigation about this Dutch Cultural Historical Tradition Santa Claus & Black Pete it became worse. There is a growing fear. Even by White Dutch people of Good Will. We are shocked about the demonization acts towards Professor Dr. Verene Shepherd, also because she is Black.

We: The National Platform of Dutch Slavery Past (LPS): Tiye International, the African and African Descendants Networks in the Netherlands (Scholars, Scientists, Business people, Women's & Youth Movements) and other International Affiliated Networks (these includes more than 450 organizations and more than 700,000 people would like to inform you that we have done everything that is necessary to create awareness so that the Netherlands could understand what trauma this cultural tradition is caused towards Black Civilians in the Netherlands. With the intention to abolish the BLACK PETE figure out of their Saint Nicolas event.

LPS on behalf of the African and African Community in the Netherlands has taken responsibility. Letters has been sent to:

**On National level**

The Dutch Cabinet

The Dutch UNESCO Commission

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

The Dutch organization of National (Folks) Culture

The Anti Discrimination Bureaus

The Association of Dutch Municipalities

The various commissions of the Dutch Parliament  
To individual municipalities  
Individual Fractions of Political Parties in the Dutch Parliament  
The Dutch Ombudsman especially on disregarding of the Dutch government to respond to letters  
A petition was presented to the various commissions of the Dutch Parliament (in 2005)

A request was sent to the VNG (The Association of Dutch Municipal Authorities) to discuss the issue within the College of Mayors. Every Year in December the Mayors in each town welcome the Steamboat (ship) with Santa Claus & Black Pete on board, at the shore in the places of the municipalities residents.

The response of the Association is that the Issue of Black Pete is not a priority issue for them.

Mr. Sander Dekker (State Secretary of Education, Culture & Science) who is responsible for the Dutch UNESCO Commission and for the sending of the proposal to the UNESCO has responded that he is of the opinion that Black Pete is not 'Racism'. As evidence he mentioned that the Majority of the Dutch (=white) people are of the same opinion as his. He sees no reason to instruct the Broadcasting companies: TV & Radio (that are financed by the Dutch Government) to scarp the documentaries and films of their programs and stressed he autonomy of these companies.

Mr. Sander Dekker advices further that we should discuss this matter in the Netherlands: to keep the debate in the sphere of Domestic level but meanwhile the Netherlands was working on a proposal to get this event on the UNESCO list. It was a bit naive of this State Secretary to think that we should keep it Domestic while his organs were busy with the UNESCO to declare this event, what they called now PACKAGE EVENING, on the UNESCO Immaterial (Intangible) Heritage list.

With success we realize that the proposal for the nomination postponed.

We are looking forward to 2014 because there is still an intention to proposed PACAKAGGE EVENING for the nomination of the UNESCO Immaterial Heritage list.

The Branch organizations of the Anti Discrimination Bureau's (who are also financed by the government) confess in a letter that the concept of Black Pete is racist. But in stead of handling the complaints of people, they recommended some alternatives on how Black Pete can fulfill its role in the Event without being identify as racist.

We were shocked to read what this Branch organization has suggested. In this regards we have interpreted the respond of these Branch Organizations as a lack of knowledge regarding Afrofobia (Anti Black Racism).

Racism is integrated in Norms, Values and Traditions and there is a lack of education to learn that it is racism.

The EC Anti Discrimination Directives are very clear about the obligation of EU Member States to protect all the citizens, among which the African descendents, from discrimination. However EU citizens should be more informed about this EU legislative framework to prevent and to fight all forms of discrimination, among which

Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin and prohibits all forms of discrimination based on race or ethnic origin in a number of areas.

The Treaty on European Union marked a new stage in the process of creating an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe. In accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union, the European Union is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, principles which are common to the Member States, and should respect fundamental rights as guaranteed by the European Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and as they result from the constitutional traditions common to the Member States, as general principles of Community Law.

The right to equality before the law and protection against discrimination for all persons constitutes a universal right recognised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and the United Nations Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, to which all Member States are signatories.

It is important to respect such fundamental rights and freedoms, since all forms of discrimination will tend to undermine the achievement of the objectives of the EC Treaty. Consequently, it will also undermine the objective of developing the European Union as an area of freedom, security and justice.

**The European Parliament has adopted a number of Resolutions on the fight against racism in the European Union. The European Union rejects theories which attempt to determine the inferior, superior and/or separate existence of the human races and further rejects the use of the term "racial origin" in the Directives to imply an acceptance of such theories.**

The European Council in Tampere, on 15 and 16 October 1999, invited the Commission to come forward as soon as possible with proposals for implementing Article 13 of the EC Treaty as regards the fight **against racism and**

**xenophobia. The Council adopted on 15 July 1996 Joint Action (96/443/JHA) concerning action to combat racism and xenophobia under which the Member States undertake to ensure effective judicial cooperation in respect of offences based on racist or xenophobic behaviour.**

To ensure the development of democratic and tolerant societies which allow the participation of all persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, specific action in the field of discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin are needed, such as education and social protection..

To this end, any direct or indirect discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin as regards the areas covered by this Directive should be prohibited throughout the Community. This prohibition of discrimination should also apply to nationals of third countries, but does not cover differences of treatment based on nationality and is without prejudice to provisions governing the entry and residence of third-country nationals and their access to employment and to occupation.

We did all what we could to get rid of this racist character.

**What else can we do Madam Connors?**

**If we take into consideration the Outcomes of the three UN World Conferences on Racism, Xenophobia and related Intolerance; The UN Durban Declaration and Program of Action; The outcomes of the Durban review (2009); The outcomes of the UN High Level Panel (2011) on the Year of People of African Descents.**

**If even recommendations from the CERD (2010) did not receive attention here in the Netherlands.**

Letters has been sent also to Relevant International Institutions for instance the African Union  
UNESCO Paris  
Head of Special Procedures of the UN  
the CERD

The UN Working Group of Expert on people of African Descent.

In our opinion it cannot be denied that the LPS c.a. did not do enough to make the Dutch community, authorities in the Netherlands and UN bodies aware of the issue that hinders Black (African) People in the Netherlands for decades: Black Pete: a phenomenon that can be categorized in the same racist event as the Minstrels shows that were banned years ago by the United States.

**Taken into consideration that the Festivities around this horrific event start on November 17th 2013. The whole white society, even the media has upgraded the activities; was it that the Santa Clause was accompany with 2 or 3 Black Petes we see now more than twenty. It is planned about 600 will accompany Santa Clause in one of the mayor cities in the Netherlands.**

We are in urgent waiting of the investigation by your office regarding this Dutch Tradition. We are looking forward for the Results. Can it be before November 17<sup>th</sup> 2013? And if it is necessary for the investigation process by UN the Research Commission, we African People and People of African Descents are ready to welcome the Commission. On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> the mandate was given by the participants of a special organized to function as coordination point. Find attached the flyer and the program that was sending out. It meeting was a success.

Thank you very much  
In waiting for your response

Kindly regards

Mrs. Barryl A. Biekman  
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